



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Herculaneum Lead Contamination Cleanup

Oct. 22, 2001

Progress Report

Last week's activities

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources observed fugitive dust from several locations last week. Site inspection information was sent to the Air Pollution Control Program to determine if violations exist. A road dust analyses was conducted on the truck turn around and scale house area. Lead levels ranged from 5,000 to 8,000 parts per million (ppm). Some vehicles have been observed passing through this contaminated area after being washed. Field observations indicate the inside of concentrate truck beds are washed only at the end of the shift, rather than after each load as required by the order. The department will continue to monitor washing activities even though the order has been appealed. If failure to wash the vehicles leads to a violation, a Notice of Violation (NOV) will be issued. To date, the department has issued four NOV's to the Doe Run Company in Herculaneum.

1. NOV #6315 was issued on Oct. 17, 2001, by the Air Pollution Control Program for fugitive dust leaving the Doe Run property on Oct. 5, 2001.
2. NOV #50038 was issued on Oct. 10, 2001, by the Water Pollution Control Program based on the 300,000 ppm lead sample collected on Aug. 21, 2001.
3. NOV #5502 was issued on Sept. 22, 2001, by the Hazardous Waste Program for failing to obtain a hazardous waste disposal permit.
4. NOV #6313 was issued on Sept. 20, 2001, by the Air Pollution Control Program for material falling onto the road from the bed of an uncovered dump truck.

EPA has collected indoor dust samples from 46 homes. These samples have been submitted for analyses. Under EPA oversight, Doe Run's contractor has sampled about 350 yards for lead concentrations, and seven residential yards have been cleaned up. Concentrations within five feet of the hauling routes have ranged from 474 to 74,000 ppm while the residential yards have ranged from 500 to 4,000 ppm.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry completed their door-to-door canvas and obtained more than 500 blood samples to be analyzed for lead levels. Only eight homes did not respond to their canvas. The samples were delivered to the MDHSS lab, and they will analyze the blood for lead levels.

Upcoming activities:

The department has proposed listing five miles of the Mississippi River as impaired due to contaminated sediments downstream from the smelter. For more information on this listing, you can visit the department's Web site at www.dnr.state.mo.us/deq/wpcp/tmdl/wpc_tmdl_PN_02_080301.htm. The department will maintain a daily presence in Herculaneum to oversee work, document any problems and issue enforcement directives. EPA will continue to conduct indoor sampling and will notify residents of the indoor air sampling results. Contractors will finish collecting soil samples from an estimated 120 yards for lead concentrations.

For more information, contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 526-6627 or visit the Web at www.dnr.state.mo.us/deq/herc.htm.